

To : Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

From : Gerry Hyland, Supervisor  
Mount Vernon District

Subject: BOARD MATTERS for May 12, 2015

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For your consideration, I submit the following Board Matters accompanied by a brief explanation. Your support will be appreciated.

- 1. Request for Expedited and Concurrent Processing of Mount Vernon Country Club's Special Exception Amendment**
- 2. Request for the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to Educate the Public about Alternatives to Replacing Orangeburg Pipe**

## **1. Request for Expedited and Concurrent Processing of Mount Vernon Country Club's Special Exception Amendment**

### ***Background***

The Mount Vernon Country Club, Inc. is located at 5111 Old Mill Road, Alexandria Tax map numbers 110-1 ((1)) 3, 4, 13, and 13A. They have filed a Special Exception Amendment application to permit their existing Country Club operations to remain as previously approved and to also permit a certain amount of cutting and filling in the floodplain that covers a large part of their golf course.

This work is necessary to alleviate drainage problems on their property that have gotten worse over time, in part because two of their drainage ponds have become full of silt. Part of their requested "cutting" will be to dredge these two ponds that no longer are able to hold the amount of water that they were designed to hold. We often refer to these applications as "fill-in-a-floodplain"; however, if approved as proposed, there will be less material in the floodplain than currently exists today. The result will be that the floodplain will accommodate more floodwater that currently is accommodated today.

### ***Proposed Action***

For this reason, I move that the Board of Supervisors expedite scheduling of the Board of Supervisors public hearing. I also move that the site plan associated with this development be permitted concurrent processing.

*This motion should not be construed as a favorable recommendation by the Board of Supervisors and does not relieve the applicant from compliance with the provisions of all applicable ordinances, regulations or adopted standards.*

### ***Board Matter Pun***

A Higgs boson walks into a Catholic church. The priest says "Thank God you made it. We can't have mass without you."

## **2. Request for the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services to Educate the Public about Alternatives to Replacing Orangeburg Pipe**

### ***Background***

Recently, a neighbor in the Hollin Hills neighborhood experienced a sewer back up in their house. Upon inspection, they found that their orangeburg pipe had eroded to the point that it was no longer draining out to the county main sewer line. They grew even more concerned when they learned that the cost to replace the entire line to include tearing up and replacing the roadway was in excess of \$70,000. As my colleagues know orangeburg pipe is bitumenized fiber pipe made from layers of wood pulp and pitch pressed together. It was used from the 1860s through the 1970s, when it was replaced by other types of pipes. Orangebug is susceptible to deformation and collapse, especially in areas with poor drainage. Upon contact with Public Works staff, the homeowner learned that they were able to line most of the orangeburg pipe without digging out the old pipe, at a significant cost savings.

I commend Public Works staff for their assistance on such short notice. They quickly responded to my request to meet with me and the homeowner on site and recommended the alternative. It is important that every homeowner know different methods and technologies available to remediate sewer problems.

### ***Proposed Action***

Therefore, Madam Chairman, I move that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and the Office of Public Affairs to prepare and disseminate information on methods to correct deteriorating or collapsed orangeburg pipe and other common sewer problems, as well as the process to obtain permits for this remediation.

### ***Board Matter Pun***

Why did the scarecrow get a promotion? Because he was out standing in his field!